DXCC OR WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

September 1983

President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF □ Vice President: Joe Locascio, K5KT
Treasurer: Don Moses, W6UY □ Secretary: Jan Perkins, N6AW
Directors: Jim Stevenson, KM6B; Don Bostrom, N6IC; Jim Rafferty, N6RJ; Bob Cobb, W6CN (membership); Mike Hudgens, W6YQ (bulletin)

Next meeting: Thursday, September 8 at Me-n-Ed's Pizza Parlor, 4115 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood.

Come around 6. Order from the menu. Pizzas range $3.05-$9.58, Sandwiches $2.39, pitcher of draft beer $3.60, ½ liter of wine $2.20. Prizes include an FT208R.

A *really* rare one

By Jan Perkins, N6AW

Back about 30 years ago (frequently called the good old days) on 20 CW, a weak fluttering signal from French India was sometimes heard. Deb Shankar Seal, FN8AD, was located in Chandernagore, on the eastern side of the continent. He has the distinction of being the only person ever to operate from French India.

France controlled five cities along that coast, and in November 1954 these enclaves were ceded to India. Thus, with the end of France's dominance of Asian affairs, a deleted country came to pass.

Deb, a native Indian, worked on the embassy staff. His transmitter was a 6V6 driving a single 6L6. For you Johnny-come-latelies, that's about 15 watts input. He had a half-wave windom strung northwest-southeast, and his receiver was a BC-612. Old timers might recall that you fine tuned by leaning slightly forward or backward in the operator's chair.

A CW man, Deb would listen for your phone signal when asked. On one QSL he wrote: "I heard your fone sigs." But he recorded, dutifully, a CW QSO. Bob White, after due scrutiny, decided it was a valid confirmation of a one-way phone QSO.

Deb's QSL is rare, and treasured. None of the other four French cities had amateur activity. If someone had gotten on from there, they too would be separate deleted countries, for they were several hundred miles apart across Indian territory and met the DXCC criteria for country status.

Some rather good forgeries of Deb's QSL were made. Not good enough to pass Bob White's watchful eye, though. Significantly, about that time the DXCC ranks thinned slightly.

Deb still lives near Calcutta, in the West Bengal Region of India. Since becoming a VU, he doesn't have quite the pileups and QSL requests are not so frantic.

(Special thanks to W1FH, W6AM and W6FR for the use of their QSL files in preparing this article. K6TX found the first of Willard's QSLs. Bob White furnished a great deal of support, as did Amar Banerjee, secretary of the Amateur Radio Society of India.)

Albania still one of the most closed societies

Downtown Tirana is said to be quiet and relatively free of motor traffic, save for buses. Now and then, an official Mercedes, black, curtains drawn over the back windows, wends its way through the cyclists and pedestrians.

Ownership of private automobiles is forbidden here. In the entire country there's supposed to be only one set of traffic lights—in the coastal community of Durres.

Albania is pastoral, its narrow roads badly surfaced, traveled by horse-drawn cart and by women on foot. They lead cows, sheep and pigs.

In town squares, busts of Stalin look down gravely. Conversations on the street are in hushed tones. There's no singing in public, no card-playing. You don't discuss politics and religion. The country was about 70 per cent Moslem when the Communist Party closed all mosques, Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. Many of these buildings are now being used for sports and entertainment.

There is, inevitably, a secret police—the Sigurimi. These dour plainclothesmen are not inconspicuous, always listening and watching.

Every day, large numbers of men and women are seen passing time on the streets and in the fields. Though everyone is guaranteed a job, many seem to be idle.

Families cannot simultaneously own a television, refrigerator or washing machine; they must choose one. The highest wage allowed in the country, reportedly 13,200 leks, is the equivalent of $1884 per annum. A television costs about $571, a radio $142, a man's suit about $96. Apartment rent runs $6 a month. Groceries are supposed to be reasonable, but meat is difficult to find.

Forty years of isolation has led to the retention of some strange customs. Albanians nod to say *no*, shake the head for *yes*.

That may be changing, however. There are signs that the long freeze could be thawing. A

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DX news

Five Finnish-trained Albanians have returned to ZA with gear and are said to be setting up an operation similar to that of YI1BGD. In the beginning, it will be mostly CW. They are expected to show before the end of the year—*maybe sooner*. The ones who will work them first are listening now.

Those **XU** operations, **Don Search** tells us, "have more against them than for them."

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Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Neil Kaltman, K6SMF, SCDXC president.

Paul, WA6KNL, announced a ghost town DXpedition from Ballarat, Calif. on the upcoming weekend.

On September 8, Neil reminded the membership, the SCDXC meeting will be in Lakewood at the Me-n-Ed's Pizza Parlor.

Technicians are needed for the backup machine, Neil advised. A forum on the repeater timer yielded a 30-second average length was favored, with the timer turned off during the DX information hour on Thursdays.

Len, NC6H, announced HAMCOM 83 September 2-4.

Roger, W6RW, inquired if the intermod problem with the repeater is being worked on. It is, he was told. Herb, K3VA, would like to see a CW repeater with a voice identifier.

Jan, N6AW, informed those present that he is looking for a 1200-watt linear for HV2VO. An SB-200 or something similar in the $250 price range is being sought.

Art, W6EA, conveyed the news that the antenna tower height situation in Buena Park is still a problem. The local radio club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, corner of Valley View and Lincoln.

The W6YA Open House was announced: Sunday, August 21 at 1 PM.

Al, K6YRA, and Carl, KJ6F, presented a slide show about their Martinique operation in the 1982 CQWW phone contest. Also at FM7CD was Brad, W6PJI, and Don, N6ZV. More than 8,000 QSOs and 14,500,000 points resulted, but they finished No. 2 from Zone 8.

Prizes: *Dual display digital clock to NN6U, Palomar noise bridge to K3VA, Multimeter to K6SMF, Multiple AC outlet to W6SP, ARRL Antenna Handbook to KJ6Y, ARRL Solid State Devices to K6HMA, ARRL Hints & Kinks to KB6WI, RFI Handbook to W6SP, DX Edge to W6MBV, SCDXC stamps to N6CTV and W6GC.*

—N6AW

Albania

Continued from page 1

link to Europe's rail network, via Yugoslavia, is planned, as is a ferry service to Italy for the first time since World War II. There has been talk of a trade agreement with China as well.

The official line is that the Albanian economy is doing well. But statistics are not available, and there is a consensus among Western diplomats that foreign technology is badly needed. It cannot be brought in because the Albanian constitution prohibits foreign credits.

Other signs of change have been noted as well. Perhaps particularly significant was the relaxation of a ban on Western journalists a few months ago.

But Albania remains rididly controlled. Visitors speak of bomb shelters and gun turrets. The fear of invasion years ago led to a national preoccupation with weaponry, and to this day the young are trained in it. An exhibition of Albanian-made toys, reported by several sources, included a child's plastic rabbit—holding a submachine gun.

—W6YQ

Comment

A DX repeater?

A DX station was announced on the SCDXC repeater recently but, unfortunately, no DXers were listening. Ragchewers had been tying up the machine for some time, and the serious DXers had turned off their 2-meter rigs.

The sad fact is that our machine is being used to accommodate a daily social gathering for a small percentage of the membership, and some non-members as well. During the morning and evening DX peak hours, a handful of ragchewers regularly occupy the machine. Traffic, weather and position reports permeate 145.48 MHz. The implementation of a timer has not fazed them; they just reset and hardly miss a syllable.

Several members recently complained to me that they tried to announce the Cambodia operation but couldn't get a word in edgewise. The club is putting out good money for a machine that no longer serves the purpose for which it was intended—DX reporting.

In the early days of the machine, DX reports were frequent and conversations nonexistent. If you wanted to talk to someone, you would QSY to a simplex frequency.

The DX season—and some of the best propagation of the year—is starting now. Do we want a DX repeater or a social hour repeater? Are we a DX club or not?

Jan, N6AW

Old bad habits

Hooray! (I thought!) It was so great to hear the repeater again. I soon realized that a lot of old bad habits were coming back to life and, like weeds, they have continued to grow.

The bands are getting good again, guys, so let's pull together and use the repeater for passing DX and—please—let's all observe the following:

- Don't talk on the repeater output (when the repeater is working). Believe it or not, those handhelds and larger units are heard a long way.
- When calling someone, twice is enough. It's really hard to get excited about long calls on 2 meters. If you need someone that bad, spend a dime.
- When driving "down the hill" in the morning, or just talking a short distance, QSY. Please don't tie up the machine.
- I know we have good marriages but how about reducing the love chatter? My neighbor keeps calling me to find our what channel the "soap" is on?
- Please use the machine to give DX announcements instead of secret codes or list operations.
- Let's all enjoy the bands in the upcoming months. See you in the pileups.

Jim, KM6B

Many comments have been received in the past three weeks or so. Jan's and Jim's are representative and seem to touch all bases. Those who misuse our machine, in most cases, are doing so thoughtlessly, not intentionally. Furthermore, it's been pointed out that many of these persons are not currently chasing much DX. And that seems to be the heart of this problem—a lack of awareness of those who are, little if any consideration for the guys who are sitting there trying to find out what the pileup is on 7003. Observe the peak DXing hours, of course; but more than that is required. You should know what DX is on and, whether or not you intend to work a certain station, give it top priority. Sign quickly. If Albania appears soon, which seems possible, the least you can do is use another machine to describe the details of your drive down the San Diego Freeway. Our repeater does serve a social function, and a good one: we all benefit from a certain amount of camaraderie on the machine, of information exchange or learning something new. But the fact is, we are a DX club and when it comes down to working DX, business is strictly business.

—Ed.

Club news

- Club directories will be handed out at the next meeting.
- Welcome to new member **K6NO, Sheldon Knoch.**
- Two have upgraded to full members: **W6RCL, Alan Kaul;** and **KB6WI, Norm Simpkins.**

—W6CN

Activity reports

W6RT: **PY0FE** 7006 0321 (July 29); **CN9CM** (via DL0OI) 7004 0518, **I2DMK/IA5** (I2MQP) 21025 1500 (Aug 1); **KA4BFT/HP1** 7008 0257, **UK0BAL** (Dikson Island) 14033 1457 (Aug 4); **TO7GAS** (FG7AS) 21020 1733 (Aug 7); **JD1BBR** 7011 1331 (Aug 15); **XU1SS** (JA1HQG) 21034 0626, **UK2FAA** 21012 1511, **TO0IBU** (DK1PG) 21018 1514 (Aug 16); **EK0KA** (Wrangel Island) 14191 0529 (Aug 18); **UM8MKF** 21015 0451, **CX2ET** 7013 0525 (Aug 19); **JT0AAE** 7002 1420 (Aug 20); **DK4YA/VE8** (Zone 2, via DK8MZ) 14218 0516 (Aug 21); **YI1BGD** (op. Majid, Box 5864) 14218 0433 (Aug 22); **8J1RL** (Antarctica) 7010 1458 (Aug 23).

K6YRA: **ZL4DE/C** (ZL3DE) 3796 1303 (Aug 3); **FR0FLO** 7085 1350, **DU9NN** 7189 1334 (Aug 4); **FM7CD** 7088 0437 (Aug 6); **A71AD** 21312 1649 (Aug 7); **VK2BCH/LH** (VK2NHV) 7175 1313 (Aug 10); **VK6HD** 3799 1255, **VK2BCH/LH** 3795 1320, **ZD7BW** 21317 2110 (Aug 14); **XU1SS** 21294 0234 (Aug 17); **HL9SN** 7090 1232, **OH0JN** 21263 1435 (Aug 18); **VK9WCY** (Norfolk, VK9NS) 3800 1209, **H44DX** 3790 1233, **HS1KO** 14159 1452 (Aug 21); **UK6KAB** (Obl.003) 14176 0359 (Aug 20); **UK8BAA** (Obl.180) 14185 0451 (Aug 22); **T2GSH** 3799 1304, **VS6DO** 3790 1310, **FR0FLO** 3789 1337, **ZS3E/M** 14210 1455, **ZD9BV** (W4FRU) 21275 1730 (Aug 23).

W6BWG: **UA9HCM** (Zone 18) 14171 0227 (Aug 5); **OH0BH** 14211 1516 (Aug 11); **D44BC** 14211 0522 (Aug 12); **T77C** (M1C) 21305 1843 (Aug 14); **A71BH** 21292 1738, **TL8ER** 21292 1954 (Aug 18); **OH0TTY** (OH2AA) 21306 1811, **IS0AEQ** 21310 1820, **5Z4RK** 21294 2117, **TU2NW** (AK3F) 21297 2140 (Aug 19); **ZL4OY/C** 14207 0510, **H44BC** 14196 0522, **YB0AV** 14189 1457, **C53EK** (Box 596) 21281 1741 (Aug 20); **H5ADX** 14197 1435 (Aug 21).

Deadline for next issue is September 30.

DXCC WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

Published monthly by the Southern California DX Club.

Editor
Mike Hudgens, W6YQ

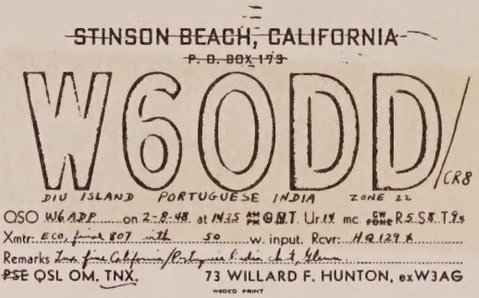
Jan Perkins, N6AW
Stan Brokl, N2YQ
Chris Conner, KA6ISX

Send material for this bulletin to Mike Hudgens, W6YQ, 10103 Lynrose, Temple City, CA 91780.

Letters

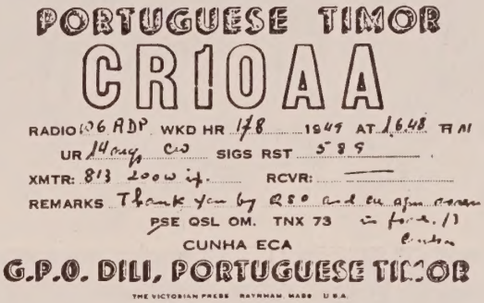
Editor:

I read the CR8 story in the *Bulletin* and couldn't resist digging out my W6ODD/CR8 card.


STINSON BEACH, CALIFORNIA
P. O. BOX 193
W6ODD/CR8
DIU ISLAND PORTUGUESE INDIA ZONE 22
QSO W6ADP on 2-8-48 at 1425 GMT Ur 19 mc CW PHONE R 5 S 8 T 9
Xmtr: Eco, final 807 with 50 w. input. Rcvr: HQ 129 X
Remarks Ini from Calif. / Relayed Dick & Glenn
PSE QSL OM. TNX.
73 WILLARD F. HUNTON, exW3AG

If you will look at the date and time of Marv's card and that of mine, I worked him just 12 minutes before Marv on the same day.

Here is another deleted one, just to show you what we worked in those days.


PORTUGUESE TIMOR
CR10AA
RADIO W6 ADP WKD HR 178 1949 AT 1648 GMT
UR 14 mag C9 SIGS RST 5 8 9
XMTR: 813 200 w ip. RCVR:
REMARKS Thank you by R5O and au agn aaron
PSE QSL OM. TNX 73 via ft. J.
CUNHA ECA
G.P.O. DILI, PORTUGUESE TIMOR

At least I beat Marv, W6VFR (W6FR) to this one, but was at that time fourth on the Honor Roll and he was second. Now I am three down from the top with a thousand others!

Glenn Means, W7AO
(Ex-W6ADP, Ex-W6AQ)

Editor:

Your comments in the story "Invasion of the Computers" hit home with me.

I still enjoy the Vibroplex or the iambic keyer, but at 45 WPM things get a little rough in spite of the fact that CW has been my bread and butter since 1936.

Pete Wolf, N6US

Editor:

It is with sorry that I inform you that our fellow club member Wes Perry, W6MPG, passed away August 11.

Wes was a fine man and a good ham. He will be missed by his many friends.

Perry Esten, W6PN

DX news

Continued from page 1

He goes on: "There are pros and cons, of course, but the question is, what will they count *for*? You're not dealing with the government of Kampuchea, but an ex-government, a government-in-exile, and that's either another country or nothing at all. Plus the fact that these small enclaves where the Japanese are operating during daylight hours could be wiped out at any time."

Search says he sees no way the **Pribiloff Islands** could have separate status. "There have been about three previous attempts, one since I've been here."

As to the **1S1CK Spratly** operation, he says, "The DXAC is discussing the Spratlys for deletion. The conflict is the same: the DU1CK group says the government of the Philippines does not occupy the real estate in question, and the government says it does. All the islands are occupied, in fact, which amounts to a 180-degree change since the Spratlys were added in 1966." There is, however, one of the Spratlys that could count, he points out: "The one held by the Nationalist Chinese. It meets all the criteria." Good luck on getting a license.

The **J28AZ** trip to **7O** has been postponed until October. It's rumored that the papers are in order, but we heard the same thing in late June, and it turned out they were not.

ZD9BV on 21334 at 1735...**VP8ANT** 7008 at 1200...**9X5WP** 21374 1905 with cards to WB6VKD...**A71AD** 21284 1920... **BY8AA** 21055 0100.

(Thanks to W3AZD, N6AHV, *The DX Bulletin, DXNS, LIDXB, DX Report,* and NCDXC's DX Bulletin from W6TI.)

Club members on Honor Roll

Mixed

315: **W6AM** (366), **W6EE** (362), **W6RT** (358), **W6ET** (353), **JA1BK** (348), **W6REH** (347), **N6AR** (345), **OH2BH** (343), **N6AV** (342), **K6YRA** (341), **W6EUF** (340). 314: **K6OJ** (361), **W6TZD** (360), **W6BA** (359), **W6KZL** (356), **W6RKP** (355), **W6KG** (351), **K6EV** (346), **W6YA** (345), **W6FW** (344), **K6QH** (340). 313: **W6HFL** (344). 312: **W6ID** (357), **W7AO** (353), **W6QL** (336), **N6UC** (331), **W6GC** (328). 311: **W6UQQ** (349), **W6KZS** (339), **YV5BBU** (334). 310: **W6HX** (359), **N6AW** (328), **W6UY** (325). 309: **W6SN** (348), **W6EJJ** (332), **N6RJ** (324). 308: **W6MUM** (333), **W6AE** (326). 306: **W6DN** (323).

Phone

315: **W6AM** (364), **W6REH** (343), **W6EUF** (339). 314: **W6RKP** (349). 313: **JA1BK** (344), **W6HFL** (344), **K6YRA** (339), **N6AR** (337). 312: **W6FW** (341), **N6UC** (331). 309: **W6KZS** (331). 308: **N6AW** (326).

CW

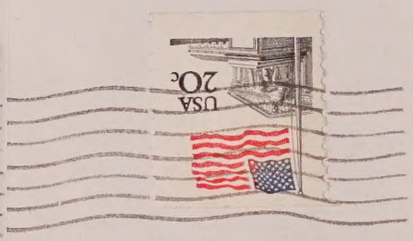
300: **WA6TLA** (305).

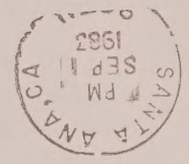
(From QST listing; if your call belongs here, drop N6AW a line.)

– JAY O'BRIEN –
P.O. BOX 700
RIO LINDA, CA
95673

W6GO

Michael Hudgens, W6YQ
10103 Lynrose Street
Temple City, CA 91780





Contest calendar

Sept 10-11	**WAE Phone**
Sept 18	**CW Sprint**
Sept 17-18	**SAC CW**
Sept 24-25	**SAC SSB**
Sept 25	**SSB Sprint**
Oct 1-2	**VK/ZL/Oceania SSB**
Oct 8-9	**VK/ZL/Oceania CW**
Oct 9	**RSGB 21/28-MHz SSB**
Oct 16	**RSGB 21-MHz CW**
Oct 29-30	**CQWW Phone**
Nov 5-6	**ARRL CW Sweeps**
Nov 6	**Czech Test**
Nov 12-13	**WAE RTTY**
Nov 19-20	**ARRL Phone Sweeps**
Nov 26-27	**CQWW CW**
Dec 3-7	**ARRL 160-Meter**
Dec 10-11	**ARRL 10-Meter**

—W1WY

State of the bands

The long path has been showing signs of life. Autumn's best propagation is just around the corner. Mid-September to the end of October usually brings our most reliable openings.

Ten meters starts to stir about 16z to the north and 18-20z toward Africa. Cross-equatorial paths persist most of the daylight hours.

Europeans on 15 are getting stronger with the best hours being 15-19z. South Africa and South America can be heard after 15z, with the best times 18z and 20z respectively. JAs are in about 22-02z, and Central and Southeast Asia 04z to 06z.

On 20, Africa short path at 01z and long path at 1330z have been reliable. From 03 to 05z, all continents have been heard several times. Europe from 05 to 07z is usually good.

On 40, long path to Africa and Zone 39 around 1330z are good bets. Europe short path 02z and again 04-0530z has been good. JAs peak about 08z, and Southeast Asia about 13z.

On 80, sunrise to the Pacific remains good, with JAs heard at the same time.

—N6AW

Classified

CUSTOMIZED QSLs by W6BA, $19.75 for 1000 plus shipping. No standard forms. We try to print what you want. Black ink on color 110-pound stock. Write for samples. Bill Adams, W6BA; Star Route 2, 29 Palms, CA 92277.

WANTED: 75S3 rcvr with double xtal deck and 200-Hz filter; round emblem preferred. Don, W6AM (213) 424-3459 or 377-4120.

WANTED: 4-1000A RF Deck. Jan, N6AW (213) 306-3847 (home) or (714) 732-7155 (work).

SIGNAL ONE CX-7A with "B" pwr supply; very late model, mint condx with three CW filters and RIT mod: $650. Roger, W6RW (213) 654-3714.

WANTED: SB-200. Jan, N6AW. Phone numbers above.

N4XX propagation

A, H, L, B, D—Above, High, Low, Below, Disturbed

2	A	10	H	18	H	24	A	30	H/L
3	H/L	11	H	19	H/L	25	L	1	B/D
4	B/D	12	A	20	H/L	26	H	2	H
5	H	13	A	21	H	27	H	3	A
6	A	14	A	22	L	28	A	4	H
7	H	15	L*	23	H	29	A	5	L
8	L	16	B/D	*Begins 54-day forecast				6	L
9	L	17	H/L						

ZF Pirates Week

Each October the Cayman Islands have a celebration known as "Pirates Week." This year the event will also be celebrated by amateur radio.

Special calls have been authorized: ZF1 becomes ZF10, and ZF2 will be ZF20.

The radio portion of the celebration runs from 05z October 22 to 05z October 30. All bands will be activated, both CW and SSB, so there should be no problem picking up Cayman country multipliers.

The event is open to residents and non-residents, and many visitors are expected there for the contest weekend.

For those of you not contest-minded, your efforts will be rewarded with an attractive Pirates Week certificate.

Work five ZF10s or ZF20s and send your five QSLs with three IRCs to: Pirates Week, P.O. Box 1029, Grand Caymans, BWI.